

REMARKS

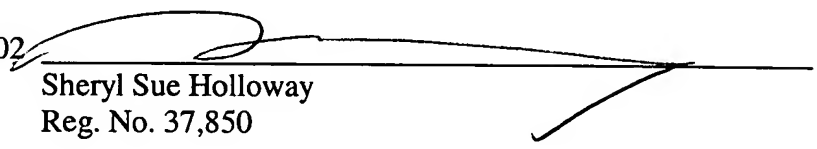
Applicant has amended claims 1-4, 7, 10 and 13-18 to correct typographical errors and to remove unnecessary limitations that restricted the scope of the claims. New claims 19-108 have been added to broaden the scope of the invention to cover computer-readable media and systems corresponding to the methods claimed in claims 1-18. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

Consideration of the application as preliminarily amended is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 19-108 have been added.

1. (Once Amended) A computerized method for encoding an instance document representing a content description, the method comprising:
 - determining a context node in the content description;
 - obtaining a schema associated with the context node, the schema defining required attributes, optional attributes, required elements, and optional elements for the context node, with the optional attributes and optional elements having an order;
 - creating a required attributes section containing a value for each required attribute for the context node;
 - creating an optional attributes section containing a value for each optional attribute for the context node that appears in the content description [and further containing a header];
 - creating a required elements section containing a value for each required element for the context node; and
 - creating an optional elements section containing a value for each optional element for the context node that appears in the content description [and further containing a header].
2. (Once Amended) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein creating the optional attributes section comprises:
 - including a mask in [the] a header of the optional attributes section, the mask indicating which of the optional attributes defined in the schema are present in the content description.
3. (Once Amended) The computerized method of claim 2, wherein creating the optional attributes section further comprises:

including an order field in the header of the optional attributes section, the order field indicating that the optional attributes present in the content description correspond to the order of the optional attributes in the schema.

4. (Once Amended) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein creating the optional attributes section comprises:

including an order field in [the] a header of the optional attributes section, the order field indicating that the optional attributes present in the content do not correspond to the order of the optional attributes in the schema;

including a number field in the header of the optional attributes section, the number field indicating a count of the optional attributes present in the content description; and

associating an attribute identifier with the value of each optional attribute present in the content description.

7. (Once Amended) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein creating the optional elements section comprises:

including a mask in [the] a header of the optional elements section, the mask indicating which of the optional elements defined in the schema are present in the content description.

10. (Once Amended) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein creating the optional elements section comprises:

including an order field in [the] a header of the optional elements section, the order field indicating that the optional elements present in the content do not correspond to the order of the optional elements in the schema;

including a number field in the header of the optional elements section, the number field indicating a count of the optional elements present in the content description; and

associating an element identifier with the value of each optional element present in the content description.

13. (Once Amended) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein creating the optional attributes section comprises:

associating an attribute identifier with the value of each optional attribute present in the content.

14. (Once Amended) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein creating the required elements section comprises:

associating an element identifier with the value of each required element.

15. (Once Amended) The computerized method of claim 14, wherein creating the required elements section further comprises:

including a terminator field for a required element in the required elements section if the schema defines the corresponding required element as an unbounded sequence.

16. (Once Amended) The computerized method of claim 1, wherein creating the optional elements section comprises:

associating an element identifier with the value of each optional element present in the content description.

17. (Once Amended) The computerized method of claim 16, wherein creating the optional elements section further comprises:

associating a repeat field with each value of an optional element if the schema defines the corresponding optional element as having multiple occurrences; and
associating the element identifier with only one value of the optional element if the schema defines the corresponding optional element as having multiple occurrences.

18. (Once Amended) The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:
creating a reset field, the reset field specifying a different context node in the content description.